W. L. G. to David Lee Child.

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Brooklyn, August 6, 1836

My very dear Friend:

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I am truly indebted to you for your favor of the 2nd instant, which was received yesterday, and which I hasten to answer without delay, although the mail does not leave for Worcester until Monday.

In your situation, it must be a difficult matter in patience to "brook the law's delay" — yet, under all circumstances and trials, we must let patience have her perfect work. Deeply and thrillingly do I sympathize with you and dear Mrs Child, not only in relation to this vexatious, and, I have no doubt, in strictly equity unjust prosecution, but on account of the losses and sufferings which you have jointly encountered since you espoused the cause of helpless, perishing humanity against a proud, tyrannical and relentless nation. Yet, fail not still to trust in the promises of the God of the oppressed, and peace and comfort shall be yours. "Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble. The Lord will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth: and thou will not deliver him unto the will of his enemies."

Thanks and blessings upon your head for giving me an opportunity to discharge a fragment of that mountainous debt of kindness which I owe both you and yours. I am delighted with your proposition. Already I have written a long letter upon the subject, (seconded also by another from Bro. May,) to Prof. Wright, and requested him to lay it before the Executive Committee immediately, and also to inform either you or myself of their decision without delay. In writing it, I have loved you as myself, and used earnest, tender and persuasive language: its effect time must determine. But I think we may expect a favorable reply.

Whether, however, bro. Phelps is to vacate his present station, I am not positively informed; but bro. May says it was rumored, a few days since in Providence, that the Executive Committee had determined to send Phelps on an agency to the British West Indies, to gather information respecting the result of the great experiment of human freedom in that quarter, as far as progress has been made. I hope the report is true; or, if not, that he will consent to give place to you as editor of the Emancipator, and go into the field as a lecturer. That important post I am sure you would fill with credit to yourself, and signal advantage to our great cause. Without flattery, (and you know me too well to believe me foolish or base enough to resort to its use,) I cherish a profound regard for your extensive acquirements, your solid talents, your vigor and originality of mind, and your generosity and magnanimity of soul. The times are too mean, too sordid, and too corrupt to appreciate "the mountain majesty of worth" — and what honest soul and christian patriot would wish to be appreciated by them? Commend us to the hatred and contempt of a degenerate people, but deliver us from their vile affection and vulgar respect! To receive their suffrages would only be obtaining so many verdicts against our honesty and uprightness. Their companionship would argue a base affinity between us. Let them tower in their littleness: they cannot rise above the level of obscurity.

I have told Prof. Wright that we have enough in our cause who stand ready to attend to its moral and religious aspect; but there is scarcely an individual who regards, or is competent fully to unravel, its political relations and bearings. Hence, I have dwelt, in my letter to him, upon the importance of securing your assistance at this time, because I believe you would do justice to that

branch of our cause. Although we may not, in the technical sense of the term, become politicians ourselves, yet it is vastly important that we should watch and expose mere politicians — such men as Van Buren, Calhoun, Pinckney, and the like — and that the latent movements of the State and National Governments, in opposition to inalienable human rights, should be made manifest before all the people.

Another uproar in Boston, on account of the seizure of two colored women by a prowling kidnapper. It is impossible that such a being as a slave can exist, in equity, by the very first article of the Constitution of Massachusetts; and I think none can be held in bondage in this country, either according to the letter or spirit of the U. S. Constitution.

Happy shall I be if I can be of any service to you or Mrs Child at any time. I feel that I am greatly indebted to you both. O, for a large heap of money, to throw it into your laps! but "silver and gold have I none", and "blessed be nothing."

Dear Helen unites with me in tendering much esteem and admiration to you both. Our boy is thriving finely.

Ever yours to command,

Wm Lloyd Garrison.

David L. Child Esq.
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Mass.